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SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
FAMILY COURT SERVICES

TO: Children and Families in the Court Committee
FROM: Sixth Judicial District Family Court Services
RE: District Report for CFCC meeting

1. Current Projects:

- Bannock County Domestic Violence Court (BCDVC): The Domestic Violence Court is an integrated model that includes criminal and civil case management. Since its inception it has enhanced judicial monitoring of cases leading to increased victim safety and offender accountability. The DV Court Coordinator interviews parties, makes referrals to appropriate services, monitors compliance with court orders, and aids with the development of temporary parenting plans. In 2007 the DV Court served 935 victims of domestic violence. The DV Court Coordinator works with judicial and community stakeholders to increase and enhance available resources.
- Silver Linings: Divorce education program for children ages 6-17. Silver Linings is held concurrently with the Bannock County Focus on the Children class and is free to participants. The program is provided in cooperation with the University of Idaho Extension System and the Idaho State University Department of Counseling. Bannock County Judges are exploring the possibility of making the class mandatory, with a process for children to be excused for good cause. Need and resources will be assessed for making the program available in other areas.
- Focus on the Children/Mediation Orientation: Mandatory program for parents involved in a domestic relations case with custody issues. The program is currently being presented in three counties, with the remaining counties feeding into the existing classes. As implemented in the Sixth District, Focus on the Children utilizes a skills-based approach rather than being primarily lecture based, and emphasizes to participants the impact of parenting decisions and the danger of exposing children to high conflict situations. Participants also receive a mediation orientation. The structure of the curriculum is currently being revised and options are being explored to better serve pro se parties.
- Coordinated Case Management: The coordinated case management program continues to be utilized as standard practice in Bannock County and to a lesser extent in the other counties. In Bannock County, a deputy court clerk has been designated as the Custody Case Manager for case coordination purposes. Case consolidation and assignment protocols are being revised and the case track system revived.

- Case Management Screening: The case management screening process, arising out of the coordinated case management pilot project in the Sixth and Seventh Districts and more fully developed in the Seventh District, is being implemented as a regular tool to assist judges and families. The process will initially be implemented in Bannock County, but will be provided district-wide as resources are available.
- Interim Parenting Time Evaluations (IPTE): Program to deliver short term parenting recommendations to parties who have primarily asked for temporary orders from the court. The IPTE program seeks to encourage parents towards establishing agreed parenting time arrangements instead of seeking a contesting hearing. The program continues to have the support of Sixth District judges and attorneys.
- Family Law Forum: Family Court Services participates with the Sixth Judicial District Family Law Section to plan and present monthly CLE trainings. Upcoming topics include developments in Family Court Services, IDHW Service Navigators, and a half day seminar on high conflict cases.

2. Pilot Projects in Development:

- The Sixth District is exploring two pilot projects. The first is a “Friend of the Court” process, based on a model out of Michigan. This project would build on the coordinated case management processes, moving further into a problem-solving rather than adversarial model for family cases. Sixth District judges have also identified a need for guardians ad litem. This will be explored as part of the Friend of the Court project or as a project similar to the one implemented in the Third District.

3. Family Court Services Contact Information:

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